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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2202
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0011
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0032
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0135
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0020
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR 0001
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0077
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0200
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0090
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0411
RUEHPS/AMEMBASSY PRISTINA 0368
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0024
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA 0101
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 0034
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0062
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0595
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0607
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0217
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0021
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0293
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0034
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0024
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0023
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0646
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 0629
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0046
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0234
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
INFO RUEHOU/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU 0004

UNCLAS ATHENS 001042

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KIRC](#) [KPAO](#) [OIIP](#) [OPRC](#) [OEXC](#) [ECON](#) [GR](#)
SUBJECT: DEMOCRACY VIDEO CHALLENGE

REF: A) STATE 75800, B) 07 ATHENS 1864

¶1. (SBU) Embassy Athens and Consulate General Thessaloniki are interested in supporting the Democracy Video Challenge. In addition to the representational events at which local winners will be selected, as suggested REF A, we can envision promoting the contest through our youth-oriented website Mosaiko.gr, as well our six American corners. It may also be possible to enlist one or more Greek "communication sponsors " for the contest. We could, for example, approach SKAI TV, which hosted YouTube debates among the candidates in the September 2007 Greek general elections. This was the first application of this American-style campaign technique in Europe. Although it met with limited success, as we reported REF B, such experiments are certain to continue here, and we would like to support them.

¶2. (SBU) Given the very broad guidelines of the contest, it is hard to predict how young Greeks will choose to complete the sentence "Democracy is... " Greeks are generally very proud of living in the "birthplace " of democracy. At the same time, polls show a high degree of disillusionment with the established quasi- "two-party" political system here, especially among youth, who voted disproportionately for the alternative SYRIZA or "Coalition of the Radical Left" party led by 30-something MP Alexis Tsipras last fall. Another theme of Greek responses might be the new voting system for choosing University rectors, which caused widespread controversy and in some cases violence on campuses across the country this spring.

SPECKHARD